

Appl. No. 09/560,819
Art Unit 2879
March 5, 2004
Preliminary Reply After RCE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A radiation image conversion panel comprising at least two phosphor layers each containing a stimuable phosphor and a binder, wherein an amount (by weight) of the binder to the stimuable phosphor in uppermost phosphor layer of the phosphor layers is greater than that of the binder to the stimuable phosphor in any other phosphor layers by at least 0.5 wt%;

wherein the radiation image conversion panel is produced by thermo-compressing at least two sheets, which have been separately coated and dried; and

the thickness of the uppermost layer is increased relative to a layer beneath the uppermost layer.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Previously Presented)** The radiation image conversion panel according to claim 1, wherein the amount (by weight) of the binder to the stimuable phosphor in the uppermost phosphor layer is greater than

that of the binder to the stimuable phosphor in any other phosphor layers by 1 to 100 wt%.

4. (Previously Presented) The radiation image conversion panel according to claim 1, wherein the stimuable phosphor results a stimulated emission of a wavelength in the range of 300 to 500nm when the stimuable phosphor is irradiated with stimulating rays of a wavelength in the range of 400 to 900nm.

5. (Previously Presented) The radiation image conversion panel according to claim 1, wherein the stimuable phosphor is a phosphor selected from the group consisting of a bivalent europium-activated alkaline earth metal halide phosphor, a cerium-activated alkaline earth metal halide based phosphor, and a cerium-activated rare earth oxyhalide based phosphor.

6. (Previously Presented) The radiation image conversion panel according to claim 1, wherein the stimuable phosphor has a grain size ranging from 1 to 15 μm .

7. (Previously Presented) The radiation image conversion panel according to claim 1, wherein the binder is a thermoplastic elastomer.

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8. (Previously Presented) The radiation image conversion panel according to claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer includes at least one elastomer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyolefin, polyurethane, polyester, polyamide, polybutadiene, ethylene vinyl acetate, polyvinyl chloride, natural rubber, fluorine-contained rubber, polyisoprene, chlorinated polyethylene, styrene-butadiene rubber, and silicon rubber.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The radiation image conversion panel of claim 1, wherein the thickness of each phosphor layer is in the range of 20-500 μm .

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The radiation image conversion panel of claim 1, wherein the thickness of each phosphor layer is in the range of 50-300 μm .

13. (Canceled)

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14. (Previously Presented) A radiation image conversion panel comprising at least two phosphor layers each containing a stimuable phosphor and a binder, wherein an amount (by weight) of the binder to the stimuable phosphor in uppermost phosphor layer of the phosphor layers is greater than that of the binder to the stimuable phosphor in any other phosphor layers by at least 0.5 wt%, wherein the thickness of the uppermost layer is decreased relative to a layer beneath the uppermost layer.

15. (New) The radiation image conversion panel according to claim 14, wherein the radiation image conversion panel is produced by thermo-compressing at least two sheets, which have been separately coated and dried.